

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.				
1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave Blank)		2. REPORT DATE July 1984		3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Final
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa			5. FUNDING NUMBERS	
6. AUTHOR(S) Gerald Cady Rachel Warner John Stepanchuk				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Federal Research Division Library of Congress Washington, DC 20540-4840			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) N/A			10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Prepared under an Interagency Agreement			19960827 029	
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.				
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) This monthly survey compiles translations of political, and economic articles on sub-Saharan Africa that appear in <u>Pravda</u> . DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 4				
14. SUBJECT TERMS Africa, Sub-Sahara Government National security Politics Economy			15. NUMBER OF PAGES Various lengths	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT UNCLASSIFIED	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE UNCLASSIFIED	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT SAR	

SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(May 22 - June 21, 1984)

July 1984

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

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PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Saharan Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa
(22 May - 21 June 1984)

Africa General

Holiday Celebrated

(Excerpt) The Soviet Union considers Africa to be the continent of peace, freedom and good-neighbourliness. This was noted on 24 May during a gathering of representatives of Moscow's public dedicating African Independence Day and the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Southern Africa. (25 May 84, p. 5)

African Independence Day

(Excerpt) African Independence Day is 25 May. On 25 May 1963, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was created, and this date is recognized by the whole world as a holiday for the nations of the Black Continent. The enemies of independent Africa would like to sow seeds of dissension in its ranks, to distract the attention of Africans from the resolution of external and international problems. (25 May 84, p. 5)

Reception Held

(Text) Diplomatic representatives of African states, accredited in the Soviet Union, were given a reception on 25 May, the occasion being African Independence Day. Attending the gathering were the Malagasy Ambassador to the Soviet Union, F. Randriamamundze, and representative of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, A. F. Ryutel. (26 May 84, p. 5)

OAU Meeting

(Excerpt) A trade meeting, marking the 21st anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and African Independence Day, was held in the Ethiopian capital, OAU headquarters. (26 May 84, p. 5)

Southern Africa

Angolan President Criticizes South Africa

(Excerpt) The support of the United States encourages the Pretoria regime to "link" the issue of Namibia's independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, said Angolan President dos Santos. During a meeting in Luanda with Zambian President Kaunda, dos Santos noted that the clearly obstructionist position of South Africa is aimed at ignoring UN Resolution No. 435. (8 June 84, p. 4)

Angola

Government Operations

(Text) Angola's Armed Forces, for the past few days, have killed more than 120 National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) bandits with intensified strikes. As reported by the Angolan News Agency (ANGOP), during military operations in Bie, Huambo, and Moxico Provinces, several hundred peaceful residents were liberated. (25 May 84, p. 5)

Government Victories

(Text) The Armed Forces of Angola, FAPLA, are continuing military operations against UNITA guerrillas. In Moxico Province, FAPLA troops have killed 340 bandits in the last few weeks. (27 May 84, p. 4)

Mombolu In the News

(Excerpt) Until recently, little has been heard by Angolans about Mombolu, a small commune of 6,000 people. In Angola, communes are local administrative units in rural areas, and Mombolu is hardly distinguishable from hundreds of others. Today the entire country knows about Mombolu. Its courage, patriotism, and self-sufficiency stand as an example. "These people were ready, when needed, to fall in line and pick up arms," writes the newspaper Jornal de Angola. Recently a large band of National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels attacked at dawn, explained the commune commissar. For more than 4 hours we repelled the attack, and then we launched a counteroffensive. As a result, 30 bandits died and several were injured. (18 Jun 84, p. 5)

Benin

Delegation in Soviet Union

(Excerpt) A delegation from Benin headed by party Central Committee member G. Degla was in the Soviet Union from 30 May to 4 June in connection with party ties between the CPSU and the National Party of the Revolution of Benin. The delegation learned about CPSU political work in the Armed Forces and had talks with officials of the Army and Navy. (6 Jun 84, p. 4)

Cape Verde

Developing Ties

(Text) In accordance with the plan for ties between the CPSU and the African Independence Party of Cape Verde (PAIGC), a delegation of PAIGC party workers headed by O. Pires, First Secretary of a District Party Committee, was in the Soviet Union between 27 May and 3 June. The delegation was received at the CPSU

Central Committee's Party Organizational Work Department, Propaganda Department, and International Department. In addition to Moscow, it visited Odessa Oblast, familiarized itself with the CPSU's party organizational and ideological work, and visited industrial enterprises, kolkhozes, and cultural institutions. The guests highly appraised the Soviet people's achievements in building the society of developed socialism and emphasized the great significance of the CPSU's experience for countries that have taken the path of independence and social progress. (5 June 84, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #115, 13 June 84, p. J1)

Congo

Business Contacts

(Text) On 23 May, V.F. Garbuzov, USSR Minister of Finance, had talks with I. O. Lekoundzou, member of the Congolese Labor Party Central Committee Politburo and Finance Minister of the People's Republic of the Congo, who is in Moscow. (24 May 84, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #110, 6 June 84, p. J2)

Congolese Delegation in Moscow

(Summary) The economic delegation from the Congo was in Moscow from 21 to 24 May. The delegation met with several Soviet officials. (25 May 84, p. 5)

Ethiopia

Delegation's Visit

(Text) A CPSU delegation headed by V. I. Dmitriyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and Second Secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee, flew to Socialist Ethiopia on 23 May in accordance with the plan of party ties between the CPSU and the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia. The delegation arrived in Addis Ababa the same day. (24 May 84, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, # 107, 1 June 84, p. J1)

Strong Ties

(Excerpt) Since the beginning of the Ethiopian revolution, the friendship between Socialist Ethiopia and the Soviet Union has been strengthened in the most varying fields, said Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC) and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE) member Legesse Asfayu during talks at the arrival in Addis Ababa of a CPSU delegation. (25 May 84, p. 4)

Growth of Population

(Text) More than 180,000 children are settled now in Wollo Province. This is almost five times more than were there before the 1974 revolution. Over the past few years, more than 500 new schools have been built in the province where illiteracy is being eradicated. (27 May 84, p. 4)

CPSU Delegation Visit Concludes

(Excerpt) The visit in Ethiopia of the CPSU delegation concluded. It was headed by Second Secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee V. I. Dmitriyev. (2 Jun 84, p. 4)

COPWE Progress

(Excerpt) The process of constructing a vanguard party in Ethiopia has reached its concluding stages. In the primary cells of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE), a meeting is being conducted out of which will be created primary party organizations. Simultaneously, elections of delegates are taking place. (9 June 84, p. 4)

COPWE Development

(Summary) An article on the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE) discusses the party's development and the role it plays in Ethiopia's industrial sector. (11 June 84, p. 5)

Mengistu Speech

(Excerpt) The capitalist powers conduct their relations with various states with discriminatory trade policies, said Ethiopian President Mengistu. Speaking in Addis Ababa at the 10th session of the Universal Production Council, he emphasized that the result of such activities are increased prices of industrial goods from the West and the reduced revenues of young countries from the sale of raw materials. Mengistu appealed to the meeting participants to take concrete steps toward strengthening international cooperation in the effort of eliminating hunger. (13 June 84, p. 5)

Ethiopia/Sudan

Repudiations of Reports

(Excerpt) The Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs categorically repudiated allegations of the Sudanese information agency that Sudanese insurgents are operating from Ethiopian territory. (15 June 84, p. 5)

Ghana

Agricultural Development

(Excerpt) How is agriculture developing in Ghana? A Ghanaian farmer, talking to a Pravda correspondent, said that he had lost his farm. For 2 consecutive days there had been heavy showers which not only killed the young plants but the land as well. For several years, all had been good, but now, all is lost. The force of the rain actually mutilated a field.

The problem of utilizing land resources is now an issue for all Africans. They are talking more and more about agriculture, calling it the "sick child" of the economy. The result is the increasing shortage of nourishing products in the cities, causing more imports of meat, grain, and milk from across the ocean.

The Government of Ghana is aiding its peasants, giving them loans for reconstruction and their farms and increasing the purchase price for agricultural products. The authorities are promoting the idea of unifying uncoordinated producers and cooperatives. Ghanaian economists believe that the long-term solution to the production problem in modern agriculture is the creation of huge mechanized farms, development of irrigation, the establishment of a seed fund, the construction of schools, hospitals and roads, and land reform. (4 Jun 84, p. 6)

Symposium in Tema

(Excerpt) A symposium on "Peace, Democracy, and Anti-Imperialist Solidarity" was held in the city of Tema. It was organized by the Joint New Democratic Movement with the friendship society, "Ghana-USSR." Representatives from the Congress of Trade Unions of Ghana, the Accra City Council, the capital, and other organizations participated. (15 Jun 84, p. 4)

Monument to Nkrumah

(Excerpt) The goal of revolutionary progress in Ghana is the construction of a just society, said Special Adviser of the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC) K. Tsikata during the stone-laying of a monument to the birth of the national freedom movement of African nations of the first Ghanaian President, Nkrumah, in Nkrofule (Western Region). (16 Jun 84, p. 5)

Guinea

New Name

(Text) A presidential decree was given in Conakry, renaming the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea the Republic of Guinea. All of the country's territory will be divided into eight provinces including 35 prefectures. (28 May 84, p. 5)

Mozambique

Government Raids

(Text) For the past few months, Mozambique's Armed Forces have raided bands of the so-called Mozambican National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), capturing more than 4,000 terrorists. (28 May 84, p. 4)

CPSU Delegation Returns Home

(Excerpt) A delegation of CPSU party workers returned from Mozambique to Moscow. The delegation had been in Mozambique in connection with party lines between the CPSU and Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO). The Soviet guests had been welcomed by Mozambican President Samora Machel who emphasized the importance of Soviet aid for strengthening the revolution. (5 Jun 84, p. 4)

Namibia

Nujoma Press Conference

(Excerpt) S. Nujoma, President of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO), reported at the Angolan capital's press center on the recent Lusaka talks between a SWAPO delegation and representatives of the occupying South African racist regime in Namibia. The main content of the talks was the question of granting Namibia independence in accordance with the UN plan expounded in Security Council Resolution 435.

Answering the correspondent's question on how he assessed US propaganda allegations that the policy of "constructive cooperation" between Washington and Pretoria is producing "positive results," the SWAPO president said that this course of the Reagan administration is aimed on the one hand at bringing the racist regime out of isolation in the international arena, and on the other hand at consolidating its position in the face of the growing liberation struggle in South Africa and Namibia. (22 May 84, and translated in part by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #103, 25 May 84, p. J1)

Nigeria

Economic Restrictions

(Excerpt) The budget for fiscal year 1984, submitted not long ago by Nigerian head of state M. Buhari, calls for a program of strict economics. State funds in the present year will be significantly curtailed; in the areas of industrial construction, resources will only be allocated to those projects already in progress. The military government will continue its policy of reduced importation. (29 May 84, p. 5)

Black Poverty

(Excerpt) While the privileged white minority of South Africa enjoys a standard of living which is rated one of the highest in the world, a third of all the country's black-skinned children under the age of 14 are undersized because of malnutrition. Official propaganda in the country brags of achievements in the field of public health, but childhood mortality among the black majority is 31 times higher than among whites. These facts came to light during a conference held recently in a Cape Town university by a group of researchers studying black poverty. (1 Jun 84, p. 5)

European Visit

(Excerpt) The visit of South African Prime Minister P. Botha to London was a logical progression of Margaret Thatcher's policies aimed at strengthening links with Pretoria, concludes the newspaper, the Observer. According to the newspaper, the Pretoria regime makes annual purchases of arms for a sum of almost 520 million pounds sterling. More than half of this amount goes to British companies. (5 Jun 84, p. 5)

Prime Minister's Travels

(Excerpt) South African Prime Minister P. Botha is touring the countries of Western Europe. This is the first such visit of a South African Prime Minister in 20 years. He has been to Portugal, Switzerland, and Great Britain and is now in West Germany. He will visit several more countries. Although he received a large welcome in Britain, there have been demonstrations. Official circles in Western European capitals justify this goodwill to the apartheid system by saying that there have been changes. The new constitution in the South African Parliament gives more say to "coloreds" and Indians, but society knows that the so-called "constitutional reforms" do not affect basic apartheid. (7 June 84, p. 5)

Protests in France

(Excerpt) Thousands of demonstrators came out in the streets of Paris to protest in front of the South African Embassy against the visit to France of South African Prime Minister Botha. (10 Jun 84, p. 5)

Changes in South Africa

(Excerpt) Recently the South African racists are asserting that they have proceeded to review their internal and external policies. The Pretoria regime has been in contact with several neighboring states and has worked on a new constitution in the country. Does this mean that the South African Government is changing direction, beginning a new era of cooperation between the countries and races in the south of the continent, that the bastions of white power will be torn down? The new constitution is examined. (11 Jun 84, p. 6)

International Day of Solidarity

(Excerpt) The International Day of Solidarity with the struggling nations of Southern Africa is 16 June. Thousands of young people from Soweto, the African suburb of Johannesburg, went out on the streets, protesting against racial discrimination on 16 June 1976. The police opened fire on the peaceful demonstrators and hundreds were killed and wounded. In spite of repression, the struggle by South Africa's colored masses grows each year. (16 Jun 84, p. 5)

Demonstrations in Western Europe

(Text) "Botha - go home!" "Down with apartheid!" shouted Belgians in the streets of Brussels during the visit of South African Prime Minister Botha. Thousands of demonstrators also came out in Bonn, London, and the capitals of other Western countries which Botha visited. (18 Jun 84, p. 5)